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Dr. Dolley called attention to the many ways in which biological science is being applied in industrial and commercial processes, and referred to the methods employed in the preservation of food-stuffs, as milk, fruit juices, etc. He spoke of experiments which he had been making since July on the bactericidal effects of carbonic acid gas. This gas proved sufficient to check all fermentative processes in many cases where the fluids were first exhausted of air and then subjected to the action of CO_2 under high pressures.

Mr. Rosengarten moved that the Publication Committee be requested to examine the diary of Mr. Sullivan, and to report to the Society whether, in their opinion, it would be worthy of publication by the Society. Carried.

The Society was then adjourned by the Chairman.

Stated Meeting, November 15, 1895.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Present, 22 members.

Dr. Billings, Mr. Joel Cook and Mrs. Stevenson, newly-elected members, were presented to the Chair, and took their seats.

Correspondence was submitted as follows:

A letter from the Instituto Geológico, Mexico, announcing the death of its founder and director, Don Antonio del Castillo, October 27, 1895.

Letters of envoy from the Royal Statistical Society, London, Eng.; American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.; U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, Washington, D. C.

Letters of acknowledgment from the Académie R. des Sciences (143-146), Royal Zoölogical Society (147 and *Trans.*, xviii, 2), Amsterdam, Netherlands; Royal Zoölogical and Botanical Society, The Hague, Holland (147); Maatschappij der Nederlandsche Letterkunde, Leiden, Holland (147); Friesch

Genootschap, Leeuwarden, Netherlands (147); Observatoire Physique Central (147), Prof. S. Nikitin (143, 146, 147), St. Petersburg, Russia; K. Vetenskaps Akademiens, Stockholm, Sweden (143, 146); Dr. Japetus Steenstrup, Copenhagen, Denmark (147); Gesellschaft für Erdkunde, Berlin, Prussia (147); Osservatorio di Torino, Torino, Italia (143, 146); Mr. C. Juhlin Dannfeld, London, Eng. (147); Geological Society, Glasgow, Scotland (143); Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me. (147); American Mathematical Society, New York, N. Y. (147).

Accessions to the Library were reported from the Royal Observatory, Cape of Good Hope, Africa; R. Geographical Society (Queensland Branch), Brisbane, Australia; Royal Society N. S. Wales, Sydney, Australia; K. K. Militär-Geographische Institut, Vienna, Austria; K. P. Meteorologische Institut, Berlin, Prussia; K. Sächsische Meteorologische Institut, Chemnitz, Saxony; Verein für Erdkunde, Dresden, Saxony; Senckenbergische Naturforschende Gesellschaft, Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany; Verein für Erdkunde, Metz, Germany; Mr. Andrew McFarland Davis, Cambridge, Mass.; Scientific Association, Meriden, Conn.; American Museum Natural History, Prof. W. LeConte Stevens, Mr. Francis P. Harper, New York, N. Y.; Academy of Science, Rochester, N. Y.; Memorial Committee, Dr. D. G. Brinton, Messrs. W. H. Seelay, Jules Viennot, Philadelphia, Pa.; Field Columbian Museum, Chicago, Ill.

Deposited, by Dr. J. C. Morris, a Tilghman microscope, candlestick pattern, made by Samuel Powel and Dr. Morris, at Newport, R. I., August, 1864.

The following description was given:

"The stand supports a cradle in which the compound body slides and rests, being supported by a clip in which plays a screw with ten threads to one inch. This affords a coarse and medium adjustment; it rests movably also on a lever hinged to the upper part of the cradle, so that the point of the screw being placed at a given distance—say one-tenth—from the fulcrum or joint, the raising of the extremity of the lever—say

one-tenth of an inch—will give a rise of one one-hundredth of an inch to the compound body. The free extremity or long arm of the lever is raised by a rod fastened to the cradle furnished with a screw ten threads to one inch so that one-tenth of its revolution in such a case would mean a change of one one-thousandth of an inch in elevation or depression of the compound body. In this way a fine adjustment is provided, which is also capable of *measuring accurately* the penetrating power or depth of focus of any lens or objective placed on the compound body. The stage is formed of a glass slide or plate of glass held firmly to two prongs of brass projecting from the lower end of the cradle by two brass clips or springs—thus admitting of free motion by the fingers of the observer in any direction, and of firm retention of the slide in any position, yet without any appreciable depth of staging; to the under portion of these prongs, however, any substage accessories may be attached, such as prisms, condensers, etc. The mirror is jointed to the cradle so that light can be thrown on an object at any angle. And if it be desired to measure the working angle of aperture of any objective it may readily be done by a scale placed concentrically with the object examined. The cradle rests on the pillar movably so that it may render the compound body useful at any angle between 80° and 15° .

“The materials for this microscope cost us \$12.67, including \$10 paid for a one-eighth objective regarded as useless by the optician from whom it was purchased on account of wrong spacing between outer and middle lens, which was remedied by slipping the collar: the putting it together occupied us two days. It proved very useful as a field instrument which if broken could readily be repaired.”

Prof. E. D. Cope read by title and explained the contents of two communications, “The Reptilian Order Cotylosauria” and “On Some Plistocene Mammalia from Petite Anse, La.”

Dr. D. G. Brinton read a paper entitled “Some Words from the Angagueda Dialect of the Chocó,” and illustrated by a map the positions of the various tribes in Northern South America and their linguistic relations to each other.

Mr. Mercer spoke of recent finds in Wyandotte and other caves, exhibiting specimens.

Prof. James presented copies of two letters written by Dr. Franklin, the originals being now in Leipzig.

I take pleasure in presenting to the American Philosophical Society, copies of two letters by Benjamin Franklin : one, dated Philadelphia, November 28, 1751, and addressed to President Clap ; the other, dated Philadelphia, December 12, 1763, and addressed to the Rev. Mr. Stiles, Newport, R. I. The first letter is written on one side of a folio leaf ; the second is a double quarto leaf written on one side. The originals of these letters are in the University Library at Leipzig ; they were copied for me through the courtesy of the Librarian, Prof. Dr. Gebhardt.

I do not know that these letters have any special value, but my own experience in such matters leads me to the conviction that it is desirable to file and preserve all such letters, as the most insignificant and innocent-looking one may be the means, owing to its relation to other letters, of enabling us to determine important facts in the life of the parties concerned.

In this connection I should like to call the attention of the Society to a visit which Dr. Franklin paid to Germany in the year 1766, and which appears to have been almost entirely neglected by his biographers. The only reference to it, which I have been able to find in the works or lives of Franklin, is a letter to his wife dated London, June 13, 1766, and printed in Sparks' *Works of Franklin*, Vol. vii, p. 320, in which he writes that he expects to start with Sir John Pringle on a journey to Pymont on the next day. As he says in this letter that he proposes to visit some of the German cities near Pymont, I thought perhaps it might be interesting to find if any references to this visit occurred in the German literature of the time or later. In a pamphlet published at Göttingen in 1890, containing addresses delivered on the 4th of July of that year by various Americans in Göttingen, I found the statement that Benjamin Franklin was in Göttingen for a short time in the autumn of 1766 ; that he had in mind the establishment of a university at Philadelphia and desired to study the organization of the University of Göttingen, with a view to obtaining such suggestions as might be useful to him.

The baths of Pymont, which have been famous for several centuries, are still a well-known resort in Germany. I wrote, therefore, to the director of the baths to find out whether any record of Franklin's visit had been kept. He replied that the original records of the management had been lost, but that in a book published at Berlin in 1782, entitled, *Pymont Brunnenarchiv*, a list of the guests at Pymont from 1752 was printed, and that under the year 1766 was to be found the following entry :

“Leib Medicus Ritter Pringle aus London und Dr. Franklin aus Pennsylvanien, kommt aus London.”

That Franklin visited Göttingen, we have ample evidence in the reports of the Göttingen Academy of Sciences, to be found in the library of this Society. In the 110th issue of the *Göttinger Anzeiger*, bearing date of September 13, 1766, the statement is made that the session of the Royal Academy of Sciences, held on the 19th of the preceding July, was more impressive than usual, as the two famous English scholars, the royal physician, Mr. Pringle, and Mr. Benjamin Franklin from Pennsylvania, who happened to be at that time in Göttingen on a trip through Germany, took their seats as members of the Society. The same periodical in its issue of September 27, 1766, says that Pringle and Franklin visited Mr. Hartmann in Hanover in order to see his apparatus for strong electrical experiments.

Franklin appears to have been gone on this trip about two months. In the collection of Franklin's letters possessed by this Society, I found one or two references to this trip; but nothing which throws any light upon what cities he visited, or what eminent men he met. One of the professors at Göttingen, the famous statistician Achenwall, had a long conversation with Franklin about the American colonies, which he subsequently published in the *Hannoversches Magazin*, and some account of which I gave in a letter to the *New York Nation*, printed in the issue of April 18, 1895.

Very truly yours,
EDMUND J. JAMES.

Copy of a letter in the University Library at Leipzig addressed to "The Rev. Mr. Stiles, Newport, R. I.:"

PHILADELPHIA, December 12, 1763.

Dear Sir:

According to my Promise
I send you herewith the Prints copied
from Chinese Pictures concerning the
Produce of Silk. I fancy the Trans-
lator of the Chinese Titles, has some-
times guess'd and mistaken the Design
of the Print, in his Account of what
is represented in it. But of this you
will better judge than I can. I
have some Accts. of the Silk in Italy
which I will, the first Leisure I have,
transcribe and send you. I am with
great Esteem, Dear Sir,

P. S. Did I leave with
you Aepinus's Discourse
on the Distribution of Heat over
the Earth? If not, I have
forgot what I have done with it.

Your most obedient
humble Servant,
B. FRANKLIN.

Copy of a letter in the University Library at Leipzig addressed to
 "President Clap :"

PHILADELPHIA, November 28, 1751.

Sir :

I am heartily sorry for your
 Disappointment in Letort; I would
 not have imagin'd he would have behav'd
 so imprudently, and let so very profitable
 a Jobb slip thro' his Fingers. I have
 done with him.

I hope you will be able to procure a
 Subscription to furnish your College with a
 compleat Apparatus for Natural Philoso-
 phy. If you are like to succeed I will con-
 tribute the Electrical Part.

Borver has lain ever since in Mr.
 Parker's Hands at New York. He desires
 you would order one of your Boatmen to
 call for it.

We had the Pleasure of a little of Mr.
 Whittelsey's Company a few Days since.
 I hope he will get well home.

My Respects to all Friends. Please
 to accept the enclos'd from, Dr Sir,

Your obliged huml

Servt

B. FRANKLIN.

On a question by Mr. Prime, the President decided that the
 action of a by-law cannot be suspended, but must be changed
 by amendment made in the usual manner.

New nomination 1331 was read, and after the reading of the
 rough minutes the Society was adjourned by the President.

Stated Meeting, December 6, 1895.

President, Mr. FRALEY, in the Chair.

Present, 103 members.

Mr. Clarence S. Bement and Fred. D. Stone, newly-elected
 members, were presented to the Chair and took their seats.